CHAPTER 22

YOU BASTARDS ...

YOU WERE AFTER THE SWORD ALL ALONG.

YOU DECEIVED TAN HI.

...ALL OF YOU ARE WORKING WITH KICHO!

DON'T PASS HIM OFF AS A MERE THIEF.

WHAT A THIEF... THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM RIN SETSU A.

THE SAME WAS ALSO WRITTEN IN THE LETTER TO REN KI.

IF YOU GAVE IT TO THE LORD OF THE DEMON WORLD, HE'D GIVE YOU MORE TREASURES THAN YOU'D EVER BE ABLE TO SPEND IN THE HUMAN WORLD.

OUT OF ALL THE MAGICAL WEAPONS OF DIVINE TEACHINGS, THE SWORD OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT IS IN A LEAGUE OF IT'S OWN.

BUT OUT OF ALL OF US, YOU DIDN'T KNOW A THING, SHO FU KAN.

WELL, YEAH.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU JOINED US?

RIN SETSU A DREW YOU IN AND PRETENDED TO BE YOUR FRIEND...

HE WAS NEVER YOUR ALLY TO BEGIN WITH.

NOR YOU OR THE GUARD-IAN OF THE SEAL CAUGHT WIND OF IT.

YOU DIDN'T KNOW HE PLANNED ON STEALING IT.

THE ROLE...I PLAYED?

WHATEVER ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED HAS COME TO AN END.

...JUST LOOK AT THIS SITUA-TION.

IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

THE CLOWN WHO WAS USED TO GET THE GUARDIAN OF THE SEAL TO LOWER HER GUARD.

THIS IS JUST...

AH ...

YOU GUYS MADE THIS MISTAKE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

IF YOU REGRET ANYTHING, REGRET THE FACT THAT YOU LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO MEET HIM.

WHY DIDN'T YOU BOTHER TELLING ME ANY OF THIS?

BROTH-ER...

...WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THESE TWO HERE!

NO...

NOW, COME ON. WE'RE DONE HERE.

IT WAS TO SEE IF YOU TRULY QUALIFY TO BECOME MY BROTHER.

DON'T DISAP-POINT ME, KEN.

AM I WRONG OR DIDN'T YOU COME ALL THIS WAY TO LEARN FROM THE KEEN EYED SHARP-SHOOTER?

THAT GUY... WE NEED TO FIND HIM.

PERHAPS IN HIS GREED HE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT US AND WENT AHEAD ON HIS OWN.

LOOKS LIKE RIN SETSU A HAS PUT HIMSELF IN NICE SPOT...

ANY IDEAS ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO?

I SUSPECT HE MIGHT TRY AND SELL IT...TAKING THE MONEY WITH HIM.

FOR INSTANCE INSTEAD OF STEALING THE SWORD OF DIVINE RETRIBUTIONS HANDLE,

YOU DIDN'T COME FOR THE SWORD OF DIVINE RETRIBUTION AT ALL.

I SEE.

HEH, BEING PARTNER TO A THIEF HAS PUT US IN A PICKLE.

DON'T YOU DARE INTER-FERE.

I'M GOING ON MY OWN.

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS? HE'S GOING TO KILL RIN SETSU A.

I'M THINKING WE SHOULD SEND THE GOOD HEARTED FELLOW HIMSELF AFTER RIN.

WHATEVER, AS LONG AS WE STILL GET THE MONEY.

NOW, SHOO.

FIRST OF ALL, FORGET ABOUT THAT STUPID LITTLE GIRL.

RIGHT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE YOU WILL SACRIFICE MANY THINGS FOR THE SAKE OF GLORY.

BROTHER ...IS THIS REALLY THE RIGHT MOVE?

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE GENUINE HEROES.

THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOUR COMES FROM MANIPULATING PEOPLE.

AT THE END OF THE DAY YOU'LL GET OVER IT.

I DON'T SPEAK THESE WORDS LIGHTLY, TAKE THEM TO HEART AND ONE DAY YOU'LL BE JUST LIKE ME, THE RENOWNED KEEN-EYED SHARP-SHOOTER.

FROM THE VERY START... THIS WAS A MISTAKE ...

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

THAT FEELING WAS AS CLEAR AS DAY.

I FELT LIKE I SHOULD HAVE CUT HIM DOWN THERE AND THEN.

I'M PAYING FOR MY MISTAKE.

AND NOW...

ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS ME?

THE SECOND TIME WAS WHEN YOU CLAIMED TO BE ENTERING THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINA-TION.

I FIRST MET YOU WHEN YOU SERVED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE CAPITOL.

IN FACT, I'M OVERWHELMED BY THE LEVELS OF HOSPITALITY YOU'VE SHOWN ME...

ENIG-MATIC GALE.

...OH, WELL. AT LEAST I HOPE YOUR ENJOYING THE FOOD.

I NOW HAVE THE CROSS GUARD OF THE SWORD OF DIVINE RETRIBUTION.

MY SUBORDINATE DELIVERED IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

I'LL HOLD BACK NO LONGER.

.....
THAT'S RIGHT.

SO YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH MY RUSE?

YOU ARE AN INTERESTING GUY.

INDEED.

BUT SADLY THIS IS A FAKE.

I HEARD A RUMOUR THAT SAID IF YOU LOOK AT SOMETHING FOR TEN SECONDS, TOUCH IT FOR FIVE, YOU CAN CREATE A PERFECT IMITATION.

YOUR WORK IS TRULY DIVINE.

YOU'VE AN EYE FOR DETAIL, BONES OF CREATION

OH, MY!

ゴト…

けれど 柄は.

おそらく 天藤の手に……

THOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT YOU'D FIND OUT.

I THOUGHT THE FORGERY WAS REMARKABLE.

THIS TIME I HAD LOTS OF TIME TO CLOSELY OBSERVE MY TARGET.

ASK YOURSELF, HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO PART WITH FOR THE HANDLE...

GO ON.

IT'S ODD THAT YOU WOULD BE DAZZLED BY THE SWORD TOO.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

IT'S ODD THAT A GREAT THIEF LIKE YOURSELF IS ONLY AFTER MONEY.

WHAT'S YOUR ASKING PRICE?

FIVE THOUSAND JIN OF GOLD.

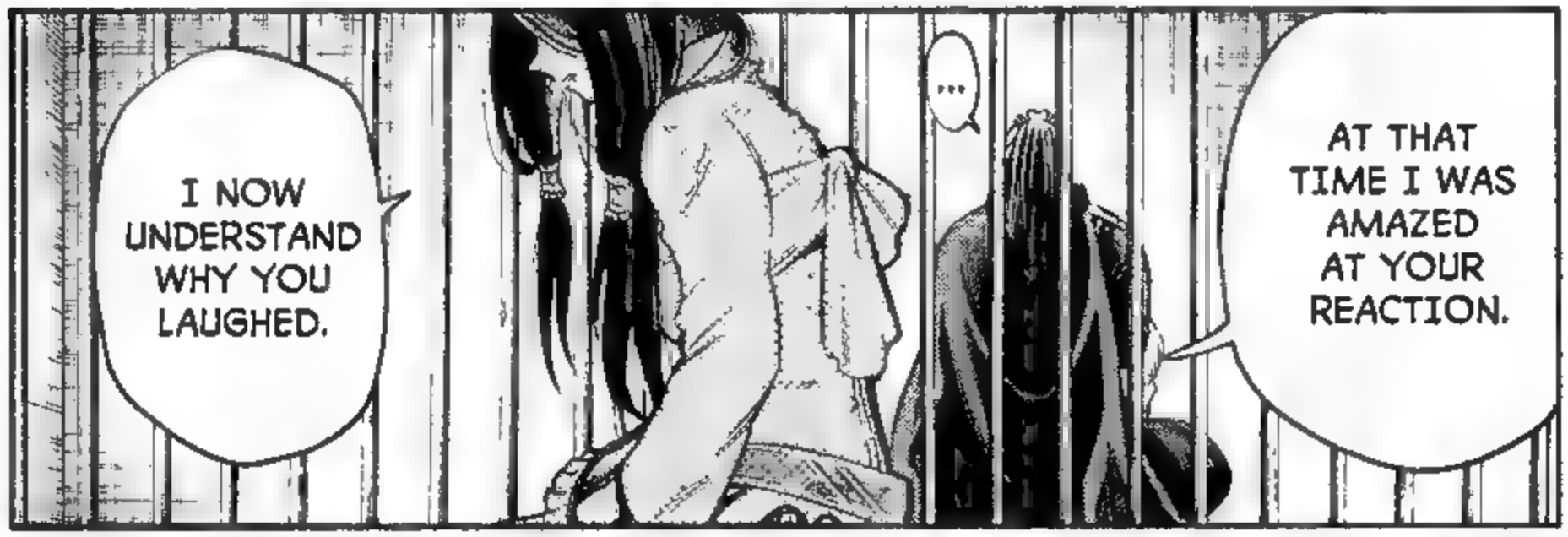
...YOU'RE ASKING A LOT.

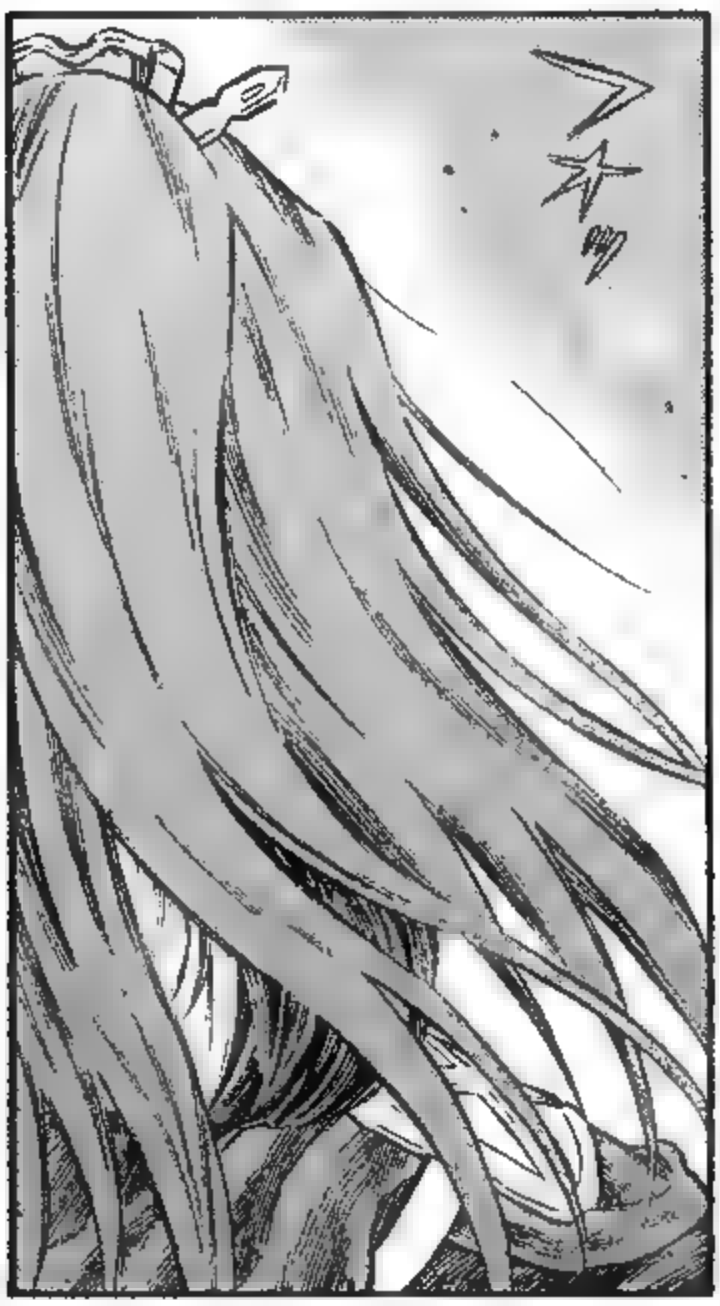
THAT'S A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT HERE IN THE EAST.

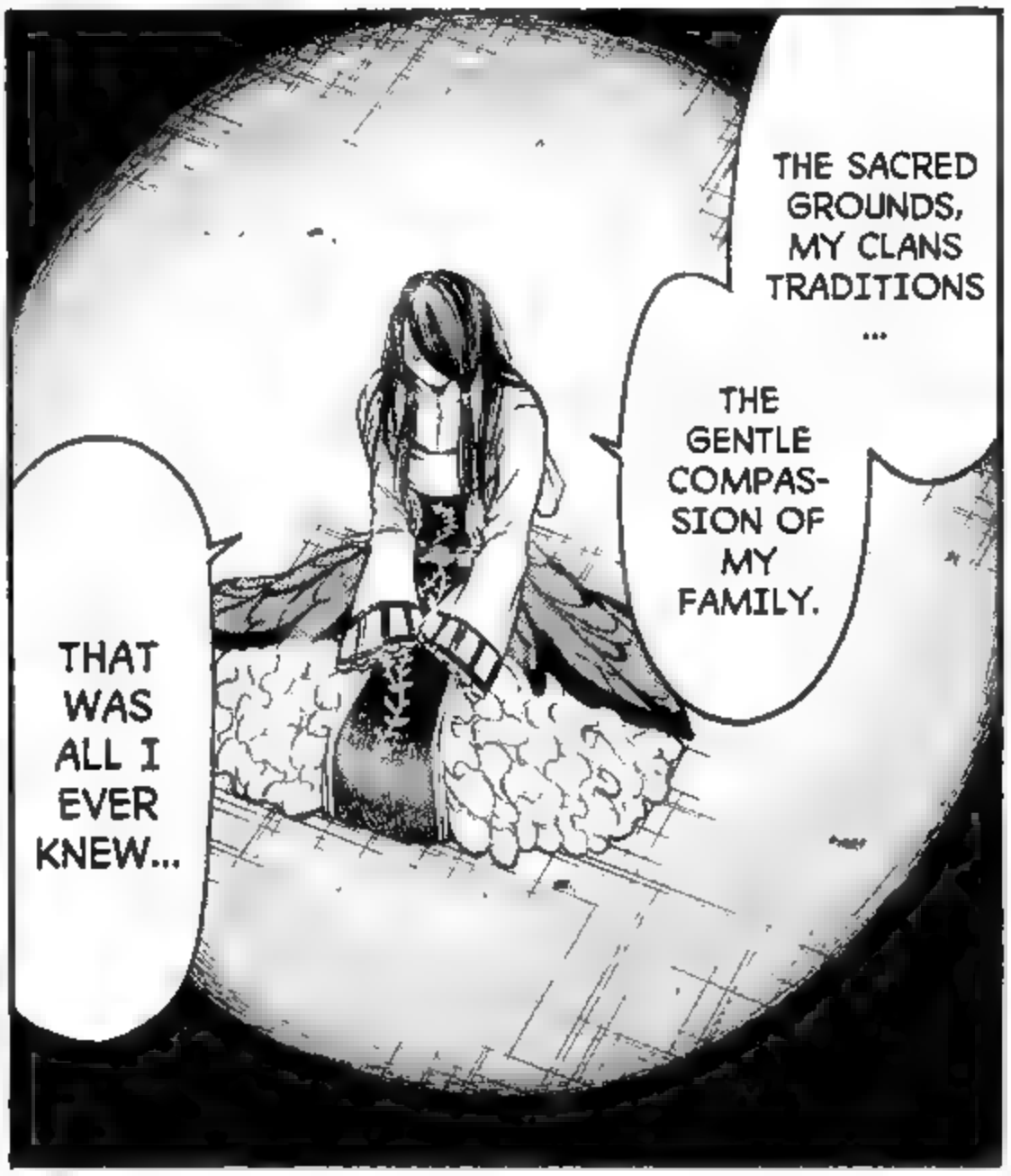
THAT'S TRUE, AFTER ALL IT IS A MAGICAL WEAPONS OF DIVINE TEACHINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

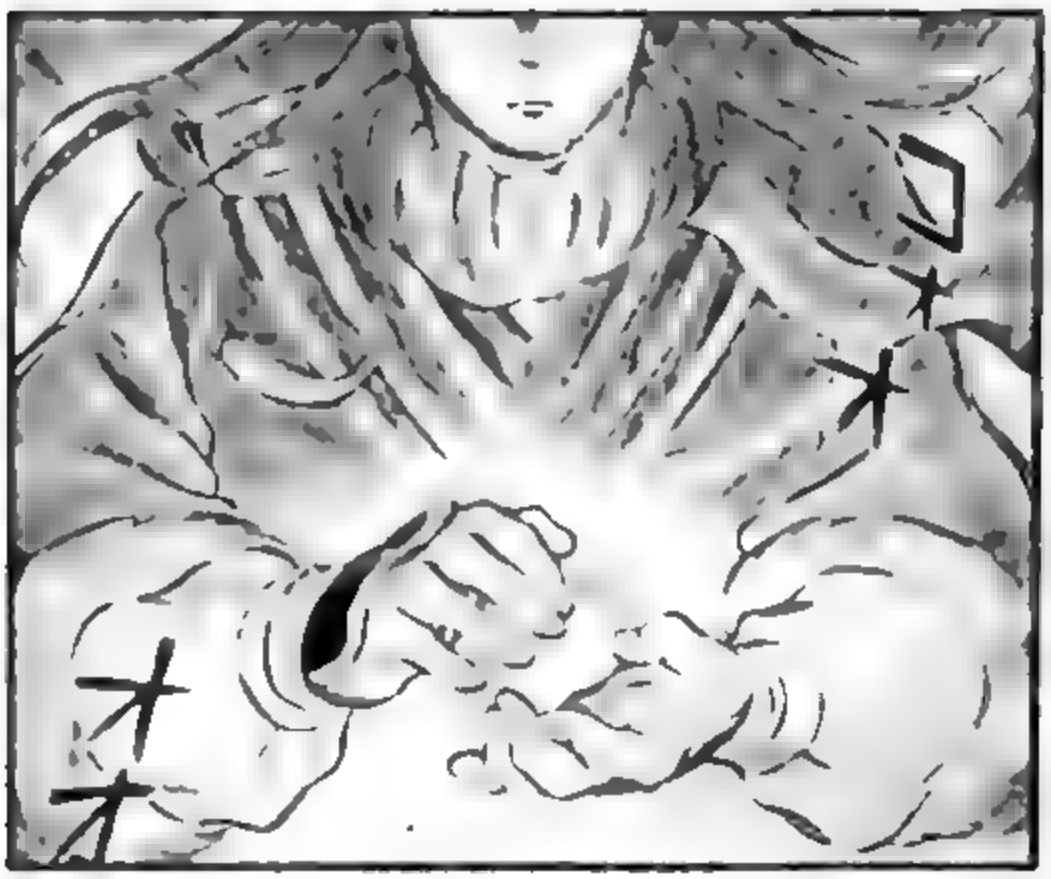
OR DID I ASK FOR TOO LITTLE?

BEFORE
...
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU LAUGHED AT ME, SIR SHO.
ハッハッハ！
わ、私何か変なことを言いましたか!?
この娘の連中もあんたみたいに人を慌てられる奴ら ばっかだったらいいんだけどなあ。
どうしてそのような。


I NOW UNDERSTAND WHY YOU LAUGHED.
...
AT THAT TIME I WAS AMAZED AT YOUR REACTION.




THE SACRED GROUNDS, MY CLANS TRADITIONS ...
THE GENTLE COMPAS-SION OF MY FAMILY.
THAT WAS ALL I EVER KNEW...



I NEVER THOUGHT TO DOUBT ANYONE...
I BELIEVED JUSTICE AND HONOUR WAS A PRECIOUS THING TO ALL.

I SHOULD HAVE DIED WITH MY OLDER BROTHER.
I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LEFT THE SACRED GROUNDS...
HAA!!

TAN HI, STAY HERE FOR NOW.

I PROMISE YOU, WHEN I CLIMB DOWN THESE MOUNTAINS I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME.

UNTIL THEN, BE PATIENT.

SHO...

UNTIL THEN...

IT'S TIME TO CORRECT ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED US...

STAY HERE UNTIL I RETURN, I SHOULDN'T BE TOO LONG.

YOU CAN ALWAYS REGRET BEING DECEIVED.
BUT DON'T YOU FOR ONE SECOND REGRET TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING.
TAKE HEART IN SOLITUDE.
I'LL GET BACK WHAT THEY STOLE FROM YOU.

END OF CHAPTER 22

設定資料集

佐久間結衣氏が連載開始前に描いた漫画版
『Thunderbolt Fantasy 東離劍遊紀』
キャラクター設定資料の一部を特別公開。

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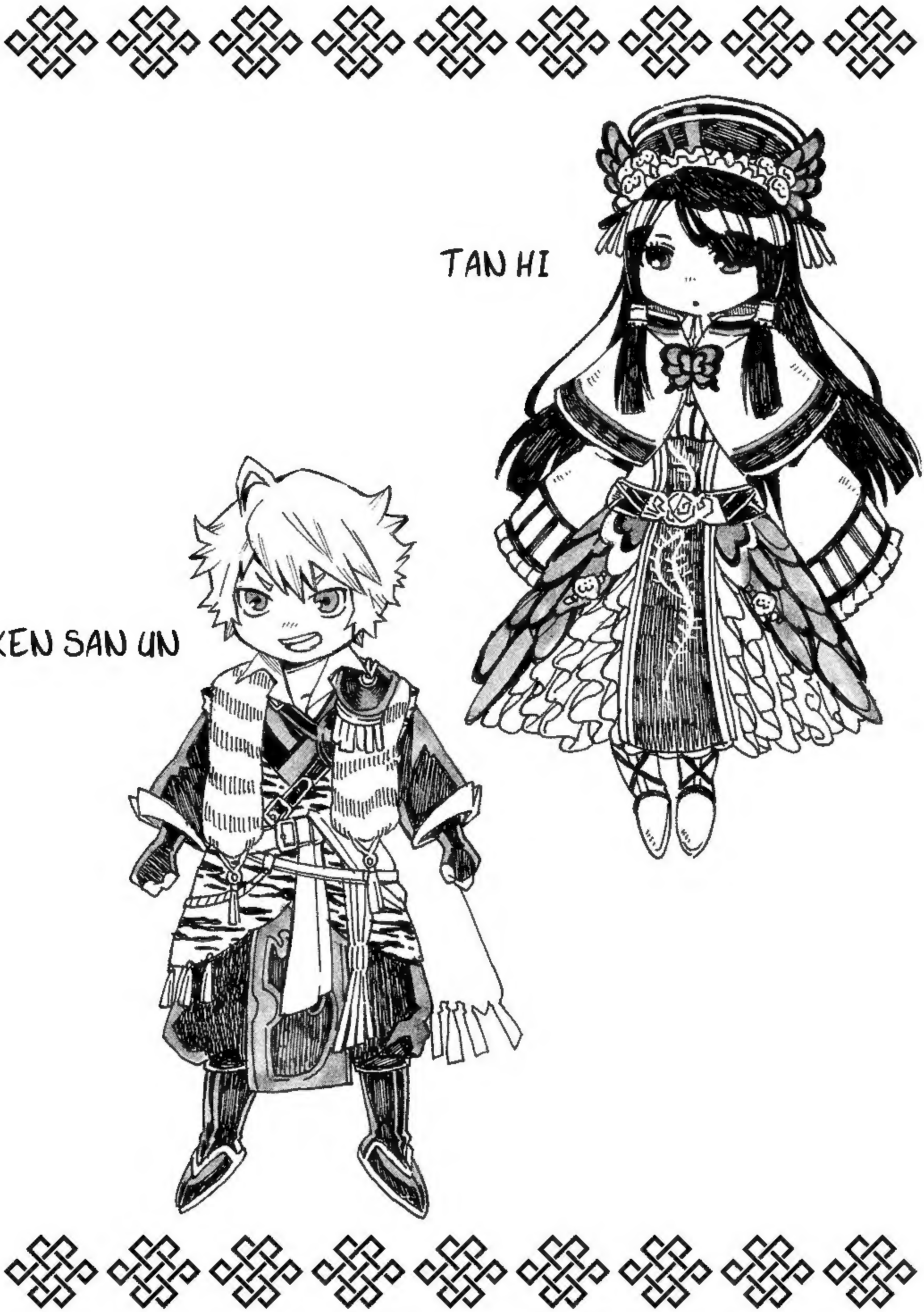
TAN HI
KEN SAN UN